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 TITLE: Novel herpesvirus amplicon vector system and its application in gene therapy
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AB The novel herpesvirus amplicon vector system is composed of one recombinant helper herpesvirus rHSV-loxP-a-loxP, a helper virus-dependent HSV vector (or named as amplicon vector), and a host cell. The HSV helper virus rHSV-1/loxP-pac-loxP is prepared by replacing two natural HSV packaging signal pac with one pac signal flanked by two 34 bp loxP sites (loxP-pac-LoxP). The helper virus is generated using a series of cosmids including cos6, cos14, cos28, cos48, and cos56, among which cos6 and cos48 have pac signal deleted and cos56 has loxP-pac-LoxP inserted in the UL44 gene. The helper virus can replicate in cells expressing recombinant enzyme-Cre. The amplicon vector is composed of HSV packaging signal pac, replication origin OriS, exogenous DNA, and E. coli plasmid backbone. The host cell selected from BHK-21, Vero, or 293 cell with stable expression of recombinant enzyme-Cre to support HSV helper virus replication. The gene for the recombinant enzyme-Cre is inserted in rHSV-loxP-a-loxP. The carrier system is used for helper virus-free packaging of HSV amplicon vector, for genetic transformation, or for gene therapy of neurol. diseases or other diseases.